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**CHICO MAN SENTENCED FOR  
UNLAWFUL FIREARM POSSESSION**

SACRAMENTO--United States Attorney McGregor W. Scott announced today that JOSE ALEX VILLEGAS, 37, formerly of Chico, California, was sentenced today by United States District Judge Frank C. Damrell, Jr. to 37 months in federal custody for being a felon in possession of a firearm. VILLEGAS had pled guilty on February 28, 2006.

This case is the product of an extensive investigation by the Butte County Sheriff's Office, the Chico Police Department, and the office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation located in Chico, California.

According to Assistant United States Attorney Michelle Rodriguez, who prosecuted the case, VILLEGAS was previously convicted by the State of California of felony assault with a deadly weapon and felony drug distribution. The current case resulted from VILLEGAS's arrest on September 16, 2005 for involvement in a public brawl. Upon his arrest, officers discovered a loaded, stolen 9mm Smith and Wesson pistol, and a loaded Glock 9mm semiautomatic pistol.

VILLEGAS will be on federal supervised release for 3 years following his 37 month term in federal prison.

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